

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

A Monthly Technical Journal devoted to the organisation of Labour

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EDITOR MANAGER :

H. DRINKWATER, Whittington, near
Worcester.

OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF.

A new canvass card is announced by Mr. T. Summerbell in our advertisement columns. The matter of the card is thoroughly up-to-date and provides for all the information both given, and required of, the canvasser which makes for an effective canvass. The single card system is adopted, which enables the card to be used for "fetching up" purposes on Polling day, and to further assist to this end and for convenience in committee-room work the back cover projects and is used as a guide card. The cards are printed on good manilla and are sold at a considerable reduction on former prices. We advise our readers to send for samples.

The annual report and statement of accounts of the Birmingham Trades

Council and Labour Party recently presented makes interesting reading. We note a total income for the year of £2,000—a most creditable income. There are three funds, viz., Management, Industrial, and Political. The total Political fund reaches £1,620 16s. 2d., this being, of course, altogether apart from the income of the Divisional Parties, which is not included in the statement under notice. It is interesting to record that the annual report is the fifty-sixth report of the Birmingham Trades Council, one of the earliest Trades Councils to be established in this country.

The figures of the Woolwich Labour Party also make interesting reading. Apart from loans, we note a total income of roughly £2,500, and a substantial reduction of the deficit due to losses on the Woolwich "Pioneer." In the latter connection a special effort is being made this year to wipe out previous losses, and a scheme has been launched by which individuals agree to contribute 1/- per week for 26 weeks. According to the latest report nearly two hundred supporters were already contributing.

While new legislation is contemplated as an amendment of the Representation of the People Act (as announced in another column), it is instructive to observe efforts that are being made in another quarter to stir up an agitation to confer votes upon Companies and Corporations. The Corporation of London have unanimously supported such a proposal and are to solicit the support of every City and Town Council in the country. Labour members should be in their places to denounce this audacious proposal when it comes before them. It is not without interest to record that other recent endeavours have been made to tinker with Electoral Law, mostly to the disadvantage of Labour. At a recent meeting of the Association of Municipal Corporations, a proposal was brought forward to impose the burden of monetary deposits, as in

Parliamentary elections, upon all candidates for Local Government Elections, with a further proposal to increase the number of assentors required to nomination papers. Fortunately, both proposals met with the fate that they deserved, but it is obviously necessary to be on our guard.

The above Association has also recently considered a proposal to publish registers of electors annually instead of half-yearly as at present. The suggestion, however, did not meet with approval, and in view of opposition to it from those whose official functions involve the handling of registers, the proposal may be regarded as out of the way for the present.

At the July meeting of the Birmingham Labour Party the following resolution was endorsed:—

“That the Birmingham Borough Labour Party appeals to the National Executive Committee to press forward in the proper quarters the urgent need for travelling polling booths for country and widely scattered constituencies.”

Who wouldn't act as a poll-clerk in a gipsy van, say, in the merry month of May?

The London Labour Party are showing the way in their present handling of the problem of the London Borough Council Elections to be held next November. It will be remembered Labour this year stands very much upon the defensive. An extremely pleasing feature to note is that a special Party Conference is to be held, at which resolutions will be discussed which will crystallise the policy and platform of the Party at the polls. Big endeavours are now being made to raise election funds, while the London “Labour Chronicle,” the organ of the London Labour Party, keeps the movement well supplied with facts and arguments for the fight. There is very much in the above activities that might be copied with advantage by Labour Parties in the Provinces.

On another page will be found an advertisement of a very striking poster introduced by Mr. A. J. Alford, the agent for Mr. Stanley Burgess, at

Rochdale. We have seen the poster referred to, with the local matter set in other tints, and the result is very striking. The thanks of his brother agents should be tendered to Mr. Alford for the use of this effective and cheap stock poster.

The Oswestry Divisional Labour Party recently held a delightful rally and picnic at Grinshill Hill, one of the beauty spots of Salop. A great day was the result, and in the evening a public meeting was addressed by Dr. Marion Phillips and Mr. Tom Morris, the candidate. A daintily got up programme gave the day's proceedings, and a brief illustrated description of Grinshill. The programme contained several advertisements, one of which, from the successful organiser of the Party, is worth reproduction, as follows:—

AN APOLOGY

I, ALBERT THOMAS, of the TRIMPLEY HYGIENIC BAKERY, ELLESMERE, hereby beg to state that owing to being so busy making food for the people; Bride and Birthday Cakes; and Catering for Parties; also being Secretary for a Labour Party that is bent on victory, I have no time to write adverts.

Cheerio,
ALBERT THOMAS.

“Where there's a will there's a way.” The first issue of the “Labour Organiser” was a typed and duplicated copy circulated privately among a limited number of persons. Now comes the Enfield Trades Council and Labour Party, who are at present unable to afford the issue of a printed monthly journal, and who get over the difficulty by issuing the “Enfield Labour News” of 12 pages and cover, in a typed and duplicated form. This little journal is exceptionally well produced, and the duplication is excellent. The get-up is very dainty and the sheets are holed and strung in a convenient manner. The contents of the journal are interesting reading, and it is full of real live kick and telling matter. We sincerely congratulate the Enfield Labour Party, and Mr. H. E. Scrivener, the local agent, on their creditable production, and trust it will lead to a larger and successful effort.

THIS MONTH'S "LABOUR ORGANISER"

As notified to our Subscribers by post, owing to the Editor's holidays, no issue of "The Labour Organiser" was made in July. Last year our August issue was similarly suspended, and following that precedent, all orders or payments for copies are carried forward one month. Will our customers kindly note?

A RETURNING OFFICER'S CASTING VOTE

It is of interest to note the variations in the power of a Returning Officer to exercise the privilege of a casting vote. It has been laid down that at common law, and unless by custom, the President, whether of a judicial or deliberative body, has no second or casting vote. Such a vote must be fixed by Statute. Accordingly it is enacted that where an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates, and the addition of a vote would entitle any of such candidates to be declared elected:—

(1) In a Parliamentary election the Returning Officer, if a registered elector of the County Division, or Borough, may give such additional vote. If he is not a registered elector of the constituency, he has no casting vote. The casting vote, if given, may be in writing, or orally.

(2) At an election for County Councils or Town Councils the Returning Officer, whether entitled or not to vote in the first instance, may give an additional vote, either in writing, or orally.

(3) At an election for Guardians, Urban District Councils, Rural District Councils, Parish Councils, or Metropolitan Borough Councils, the Returning Officer, if he is a Local Government elector of the District, Parish or Ward for which the election is held, may give such additional vote in writing only. In the case of equality of votes the Returning Officer who counts the votes, may, if he is not a Local Government elector of the Parish, etc., for which the election is held, or he is not willing to exercise his casting vote, determine by lot which of the candidates whose votes are equal, shall be elected.

LAW AND PRACTICE

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—ED.]

IMPROPERLY CONDUCTED ELECTIONS.

A number of enquiries have reached us from time to time concerning the effect of certain irregularities that were alleged to have taken place in connection with various elections. It is unfortunately true that the letter or intention of the Ballot Act is not always strictly observed by Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks, but only in very rare instances is it possible to attribute these departures to wilful misconduct or corrupt motive. In the overwhelming majority of cases it is both more charitable and more true to lay the fault at the door of the surprising ignorance that is to be met with on the part of some officials as to their correct functions and functioning. Some excuse can, of course, be accepted for occasional trivial lapses. The Ballot Act itself is very precise, and it is not difficult to understand, but elections are mostly conducted by overworked public officials whose multifarious technical duties possibly prevent concentration on the matter in hand. Where, however, ignorance is on the part of presiding officers, or clerks, who have been picked by the Returning Officer, as they very often are, from a class in society which is very actively opposed to Labour, then agents and candidates need to be very much on their guard. The scale of honour among public and Municipal officers is fairly high, but the habits of Conservative Clubs who frequently secure appointments in polling booths are considerably lower down the scale and their appointment is objectionable both on the point of partiality and because their ignorance might be assumed.

The remedies for irregularities are by no means as promising as might be anticipated. Several of our correspondents have assumed that because a particular thing laid down by the Ballot Act was not carried out, therefore the election must be declared null

and void. This is certainly assuming too much. A good deal depends upon the particular irregularity and also upon its effect.

The Representation of the People Act, 1918, Section 31 (4), lays it down that "An election shall not be questioned by reason of any non-compliance with the provisions of this section, or any informality relative to polling district or polling places." Section 31 is the section which lays down the division of a constituency into polling districts and the method of appointment of polling places. Alarming as the provision just quoted seems on first sight, it is worth noting that the "informality" refers to the establishment or appointment and not to the conduct of polling booths.

Another obstacle to securing the invalidity of any election in which there has been irregularity is Section 13 of the Ballot Act, which reads as follows :

"No election shall be declared invalid by reason of a non-compliance with the rules contained in the first schedule to this Act or any mistake in the use of the forms in the second schedule to this Act, if it appears to the tribunal having cognisance of the question that the election was conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the body of this Act, and that such non-compliance or mistake did not affect the result of the election."

Several cases all under the above section have been decided by the Courts from which it is possible to gather a very general idea of what might be capable of setting aside an election and what would not. It has to be shown that the irregularity affected the result of the election. This is not always easy to prove, and obviously an election could not be set aside under this section for an irregularity where one candidate secured an enormous preponderance of votes. In one of the cases under this section a Sunday had been included in the number of clear days, but it was shown that this had not affected the result, and in other cases the irregularities concerned the handling of the ballot boxes and the counting and checking of the contents of each ballot box before mixing them together at the count. Here again the complaint failed.

Apparently, if the principles laid

down in the body of the Act are carried out a candidate has some difficulty in securing remedy, but after all his complaint cannot be very serious unless the result has been affected. The influencing or loss of one vote or a few votes against a great majority would not, of course, be taken as influencing the result, though if one could show that a few votes were influenced and there was a reasonable probability of many more, then a Court would probably decide in the petitioners' favour.

Irregularities which mislead are on a somewhat different footing. Irregularities may occur which are not merely non-compliance with the rules or mistakes in the use of forms, but are such that all the electors may not have had the chance to vote, or that a section of them has been misled. In such case it might be held that there had been no election at Common Law and the election could be declared void.

One may go further than this, and instance such serious irregularities as the closing or inattention at polling booths during the day so that voters presenting themselves could not vote. This, it seems, would void the election.

Altogether it appears that our friends when discovering that elections have not been conducted in every particular according to law, must not hope to get their own back by securing the annulment of the result, unless it can be shown that very grave considerations were involved or that the result has been materially affected.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL

A CONVENIENT LIST.

No election agent is fully equipped who does not possess a complete set of the various Orders in Council which are current and which govern the conduct of elections of varying categories. Certainly no person desiring to become conversant with the conduct of elections can attain the necessary knowledge without a study of the Orders referred to. The Acts of Parliament which govern the conduct of Parliamentary and Local Government Elections are many, but they are more or less accessible and their provisions readily acquired by persons whose business it is to know them. The Orders in Council are, however, far less known, and it is safe

to say that there are scores of election agents who have never seen them, or perhaps even heard of them. These men are puzzled at times by procedure for which they can find no statutory provision, and the absence of up-to-date reference books dealing with Local Government Elections leaves them still in confusion. Any of the following Orders may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, or through an ordinary bookseller, and the total cost of the whole series is a matter of only three or four shillings.

The Parish Councillors Election Order, 1901 (Statutory Rules Order, 1901, No. 2).

The Parish Councillors (Small Parishes) First Election Order, 1898, (S.R.O. 1898, No. 576).

The Rural District Councillors Election Order, 1918, (S.R.O. 1898, No. 2).

The Urban District Councillors Election Order, 1898, (S.R.O. 1898, No. 1).

The Guardians (Outside London) Election Order, 1898, (S.R.O. 1898, No. 4).

The Guardians (London) Election Order, 1898, (S.R.O. 1898, No. 15).

The Metropolitan Borough Councillors Election Order, 1903, (S.R.O. 1903, No. 160).

The Local Elections (Alteration of Rules) Order, 1919, (S.R.O. 1919, No. 206).

The Representation of the People Order, 1918, (S.R.O. 1918, No. 1813). Reprinted as amended, 1921.

The Ministry of Health (Registration and Elections, Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, (S.R.O. 1921, No. 959).

The Representation of the People Order, 1921, (S.R.O. 1921, No. 1224).

An extremely useful handbook for the conduct of Polls at Local Government Elections has been issued by Messrs. Knight and Co. Although specially written for the use of Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, and those concerned in the conduct of the Poll, the handbook is of considerable interest and value to election agents and those having charge of candidates' interests. The price is 1/-. A similar handbook for the use of Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks at Parliamentary Elections was published in 1918, at the same price.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

BY THE EDITOR.

I.

(This series of articles has been preceded by a series dealing with the "Principles of Party Organisation," which readers are advised to peruse prior to reading the following.)

It is probably true to say that no statesman or ruler in the world's history ever made his mark, but who either intuitively or knowingly set himself out to understand and avail himself of the psychology or characteristics (or call it what you will) of the people over whom he held sway. History is full of instances of the folly of blind fools, mighty though some of them may have been, who ignored the popular sense and the currents of thought that cement the social contact of human beings. These obstinates or tyrants, as some of them were, in due course fell, and the figures who loom largest in the story of the past are those who knew the people best for good or for ill and built their power upon this knowledge.

In not one single iota does this truth abate to-day. Like natural laws themselves, it does not work uniformly to advantage. It wreaks as much harm as it does good, but woebetide the individual or the movement that seeks the suffrage of a people whom it doesn't first understand.

For the operation of the law, if we may call it such, we need go no further than the present Premier, a past-master in the psychology of the British people—a trickster always, facing this way to-day and another way to-morrow, red in 1910, blue in 1918, white in 1922, yet most of the time with his finger on the popular pulse—on the crest of the wave of public popularity—sinister, secure, yet always understanding. There are to-day better men in plenty, but they do not quite so well understand; and so the law works to our evil till a stronger sweeps away its effects.

The essentiality of a knowledge of the people must be, therefore, accepted as a preliminary to achievement. Much depends on whether we put this knowledge to right or wrong use. The

mind of the people is very much like any other natural substance. By processes diverse but equally effective, one may extract this or that, good or bad. The fragrant teacup may be an infusion of the invigorating theine or made merely a concoction of bitter tannin. Both good and bad are latent in the natural mind, though few, it seems, who have risen to power, have achieved their end by influencing the good. Perhaps it is easier to influence the ill, or ill responds to ill more readily? I confess I don't know.

These articles are, however, to be a study not so much of the psychology of the people en masse—a subject cleverer students have dabbled with, found entrancing, and finally lost themselves in. No pen can do that subject justice; and so we shall devote ourselves to studying the appeals of political parties as we know them.

Political parties, like the rulers we have referred to, call either intuitively or knowingly on certain psychology of the people. In fact, we may take it as a truth that unless they did they wouldn't be there or exist at all. It is our purpose to divine and probe the appeals of the various parties in this way, and indeed in few respects could the would-be organiser or aspirant for political honours equip himself better than by a study of these matters.

Let us start with an axiom. It will be one to which most people will subscribe lip service, though few will genuinely observe it. It is that there is no human movement that exists solely on bad impulses. It follows, therefore, that all political movements have some basic good. We arrive at the conclusion, then, that each political party, besides the bad attributes which we readily concede to it, make some appeal to the good impulses of mankind.

I hope in these articles to analyse this good and bad and to particularise the directions in which this or that political party makes its appeal to the natural and national character. Once we understand these psychological appeals and the hold they give on this or that section or strata of Society we can understand better the lines upon which political policy, strategy, warfare, organisation, and propaganda may best proceed.

In the preceding articles I drew attention to a change that had taken place in the national characteristics and temperament during the past 25 years.

I would emphasise once again that national character is by no means a constant factor, though certain phases of it may persist throughout the ages. One may isolate the Chinaman, the Jew, or the Welshman at a glance, and from the dawn of history the characteristics of each race have been preserved. Yet environment plays its part, and there are other influences that react upon the people. In spite of ancient fable, many Jews have been completely absorbed into this and some other races. There be Welshmen who have long forgotten the hills of Wales and the associations and inspiration therefrom that have moulded the national character. And are there no Chinamen whose education has left them no longer Chinese in spirit, but with a Western outlook?

Certain it is that improvements in travel, the wide spread of education, the influence of newspapers, and, lastly, the Great War, have all tended to modify one great national characteristic that was largely the asset and the tool of one political party. Deeply ingrained as it may be, the Englishman's insular prejudices are not what they were, and in coming to this conclusion I have taken no account of the International propaganda of Socialism and the Labour Party.

With this one illustration I hope my readers will accept my view that the psychology of the people changes. If this is accepted one is able to understand better the variations of political fortune and the attachment of certain parties during their history to certain creeds and their ultimate divorce therefrom. One is able to see, too, that the advocacy of this matter or of that is not always derived from the basic principles belonging to any party, but is merely the opportune exploitation of the known prejudices (or psychology) of a section of the people. Indeed, a very considerable proportion, at any rate, of modern legislation, is attributable to this source, and few would deny that with the extension of the franchise the orthodox parties have tended to become more and more opportunist. This exploitation has given us a medley of legislation in

many cases entirely out of accord with the broad general principles advocated by the Party which has enacted it. Vote-catching legislation has often been not so much an appeal to interest as a capitulation to prejudice or pandering to sentiment. "Great leaders," who in other parties formulate the policies, have (as I have pointed out before) used their intuition into national character. And their acts have been the witness of it.

With these lessons before it, closely woven as they are with the rise and power of Directors, or those who have been virtually such, Labour, with its newer creed and proposals mostly formulated in accordance with it, has much to learn. It cannot afford the suppleness of conviction necessary to attain power by the same means that its predecessors and present opponents have done. Yet its knowledge of psychology can be put to good use. It has its own psychological appeal, and there are ways and means of fanning it. It is in some respects as important as its material appeal. And there is the other course: its knowledge and its analysis of the attributes and failings which the other parties have exploited, and which they play upon to-day, may enable it—even to some extent in its methods or policy—certainly in its organisation and electioneering, to counter the influence that would detract from it voters to whom its proposals might otherwise appeal.

It was said of a Parliament of recent years that the Tories represented the landlords' interests and the Liberals represented the financiers' or capitalists' interests. This statement has often been repeated, and originally in support of it the occupations and interests of many members of the House were quoted. In my opinion, there was very little truth or purpose in this attempt to particularise the parties. Certainly no such division exists to-day. The interests of "rent, interest, and profit," are to-day fairly divided between Liberalism and Conservatism; and the big dark horse which Labour will find itself up against, Big Business, will own no allegiance to either party which does not do its will.

Apart from this general allegiance to all that is entailed by Capitalism and a conservation of the present

economic basis of Society, both parties may be said to be purely opportunist, subject to the broad general tradition of both parties. These broad traditions mark the psychological appeal of the political parties apart from such special exploitation as takes place continually as the manifestation of opportunism.

I propose now to deal with each party in turn, and it will be convenient to take the Tory Party first. Such accidents as Coalitions may be left out of account. Toryism is Toryism whether it masquerades as a Coalition or not, and in all the Coalitions we have had it is the deepest hue that has given the tint. The Tory we shall dish up will be the true "True Blue."

(To be continued.)

(In the next article a searching analysis will be made of Toryism and Tory appeals. The roots of the Conservative Party will be laid bare and its hold upon large sections of the community explained. Later articles will similarly treat of the Liberal Party, and tactics for reaching strata of Society hitherto the property of other parties will be suggested.)

OF INTEREST TO J.P.'s

The following extract from Section 38 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, may not be so well known as certain other matters, and we quote same, therefore, in extenso, for the benefit of all whom it may concern.

"Where a person who is a justice of the peace is reported by an election court or election commissioners to have been guilty of any corrupt practice in reference to an election, whether he has obtained a certificate of indemnity or not, it shall be the duty of the director of public prosecutions to report the case to the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain with such evidence as may have been given of such corrupt practice, and where any such person acts as a justice of the peace by virtue of his being, or having been, mayor of a borough, the Lord High Chancellor shall have the same power to remove such person from being a justice of the peace as if he were named in a commission of the peace."

LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

The West Cumberland "Labour Gazette" (weekly), No. 36 of which has now been reached, appears to be definitely establishing itself as an interesting local newspaper that has come to stay. We note that considerable attention is paid to local news and that the paper bears the impress of popularity. Local cricket forms a considerable feature in recent issues.

Address: Miners' Hall, Cleator Moor.

The "Sheffield Co-operator" is a new eight-page monthly, under the auspices of the Sheffield Co-operative Party. As might be expected, the Co-operative Movement is responsible for a considerable space taken up with advertisements, though we note that several Labour Parties are also advertisers. A cartoon on the front page is an effective feature and deals with the closing of the Municipal Milk Department by the Sheffield City Council. The guaranteed circulation of the "Sheffield Co-operator" is 30,000, and this should make it an effective propagandist organ, and at the same time a valuable advertising medium.

Address: 6 Bank Street, Sheffield.

The "Middleton Divisional Labour News" is an adaptation of the "Labour News Service" which has been running some five or six months, and has a guaranteed circulation of 7,000 copies. There is a good income from advertisements which appear to be well sought after. The "M.D.L.N." is at present purely devoted to serious matter, even the modern love story turning out, somewhat to our disappointment, to be a sugar-coated pill with certainly more pill than sugar. The paper would be improved by some little variety—or even a real love story! Its issue, however, does credit to its promoters and should do a power of good to the Party.

Address: 15 Market Place, Middleton, Lancs.

The following statement of the affairs of a Labour Monthly is instructive, and should prove an encouragement to others who are afraid of venturing. The loss per

month is comparatively small and is a low price to pay for the great good that can be accomplished through a local newspaper. The figures referred to, relate to the fourth issue of the monthly concerned, and it is possible that later issues will reduce the nett monthly loss. It must be remembered that real endeavours have to be made in order to obtain an effective advertisement income. We should be very pleased to print figures relating to other journals, suppressing the name of the journal, if desired.

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7,000 copies at 26/-			
from Nat. Lab. Party	9	2	0
Local printer, first			
thousand	8	10	0
Six succeeding 1,000's at			
10/-	3	0	0
Carriage, etc.	1	5	0
	21	17	0
Average return from			
adverts at 6/- per			
double column inch...	18	0	0
Loss to L.L.P.	3	17	0

The "Dawn," the organ of the Swindon Labour Party, has now been issued in a new form, and in future will be a localised edition of the Labour News Service. It is a very readable and serviceable monthly.

Address: 93 Commercial Road, Swindon.

The "Afan Sentinel" completes its tenth issue with the month of August. It is by no means a pretentious paper, but its eight quarto pages are full of facts and telling propagandist points. The Editor is Mr. Ivor H. Thomas, whose work in S. Wales is well known. The "Afan Sentinel" is the official organ of the Aberavon Labour Party, for whom Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald is the candidate, and who contributes an article on the Bye-Elections at Gower and Pontypridd—omens, we trust, for his own candidature. Other contributors are Morgan Jones, M.P., and Miss Minnie Pallister, who edits the Women's Page. We are pleased to note the straight-out hitting at war and its concomitants, which characterises this month's issue.

Address: 65 Rockingham Terrace, Briton Ferry.

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"The King's Lynn Citizen" celebrates its first anniversary this month, and there is no question as to the real benefit that has been derived from this lively little journal. As is natural in an almost purely agricultural constituency, the affairs of the agricultural worker loom large in its pages. An interesting review of the farm workers' progress, by W. R. Smith, M.P., appears on the front page this month. We are also interested to note a paragraph which announces that on the suggestion of Mr. H. Stephens, the Labour Agent, a number of improvements have been made in the polling arrangements for the Division.

Address: 7 Paradise Parade, King's Lynn.

We understand that the Midland group of newspapers, of which the "Pioneer" (Leicester) and the "Town Crier" (Birmingham) are the most prominent publications, are looking for fresh associates, and invitations will shortly be extended to other areas in the Midlands to join in the present successful chain of papers.

No. 2 of the "Labour Searchlight" the new monthly of the Warwick and Leamington Divisional Labour Party is to hand. We like the title; it seems appropriate to conditions in a large County Division. There appears to be in the contents something appropriate to all parts of the Division. "Matters of the Moment," by Mr. P. W. Cole, Labour candidate for the Division, is a statesman-like analysis of current problems rightly given prominence on the first page. The features include such matters of general interest as "Notes on the Allotment," "The Poultry Run," "The Woman's Helpmate," and last, but not least, the "Kiddies' Corner." We are glad that the youngsters are not overlooked.

Address: Labour Assembly Rooms, 43 The Parade, Leamington Spa.

The Stockport "Citizen" is a four-page monthly, which is the organ of the Stockport Co-operative Party. It is entirely locally produced.

Address: 42 Chestergate, Stockport.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

A change in the constitution of the Labour Party, made at the Annual Conference at Edinburgh, is of considerable importance to Local Parties, and upon Divisional secretaries will largely devolve the duty of seeing that the spirit of the change is carried out. In the past the work of some Labour Parties has been very much hampered by individuals who secure election as delegates, for the sole purpose of obstructing or nagging at the proceedings and work of the Party. In some cases such persons openly boast allegiance to another Party, and provided these people were properly appointed as delegates by the organisation appointing them, it has been difficult to challenge their right of attendance.

The new Rule referred to reads as follows:—

Condition of eligibility of Delegates from constituent bodies to either Local Labour Parties or to any National or Local Conference of the Labour Party.

- (a) Every person nominated to serve as a delegate shall individually accept the constitution and principles of the Labour Party.
- (b) No person shall be eligible as a delegate who is a member of any organisation having for one of its objects the return to Parliament or to any Local Governing Authority of a candidate or candidates other than such as have been endorsed by the Labour Party, or have been approved as running in association with the Labour Party.

From the above it will be seen that Local Parties in the future will have no excuse for their work being hampered as in the past. As a first step secretaries inviting Trades Unions to appoint their delegates should at the same time apprise them of the rule. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that organisations accepting affiliation are bound by the rules of the Party itself in so far as representation in the Party is concerned. Clause B of the rule makes it clear that a Local Party has the right to refuse admission to any person belonging to another Party, and this rule governs not only future delegates but present delegates,

and all such persons should be forthwith excluded from taking any part in the business of the Party. It is only by such action as this that the Party can exclude spies and traitors from its midst, or people who are there with the definite purpose of doing mischief.

We were recently consulted as to the result of an election in a certain town where some Local Government losses were sustained. It was difficult to account for the lack of support, yet the contest had proved that Labour policy was very poorly understood. It was claimed that this ought not to be so, in view of the fact that throughout the winter and for some part of the summer, highly successful indoor meetings had been run on Sunday evenings, while "star" speakers had been frequent and their meetings overflowing. It is just here that calculations went wrong. Close enquiries showed that the overwhelming bulk of the audiences were regular attendants and convinced supporters of the Labour cause. So successful in fact had the meetings become, and so regular the attendance, that very little advertising was indulged in, and it was sometimes necessary to do little more than to announce "star" speakers a few Sundays ahead to ensure a packed hall. Yet the Party had not made progress; and after all, small wonder. For Labour to make progress, propaganda must be constant, if only for the sake of countering the work of the other side, but much more because Labour principles embody new doctrines which must be explained. As in most other things one must either go on or go back, and to go on the propaganda must reach the people. It must not stop at the converted. In the instance named, the meetings were practically the only form of propaganda adopted, and further, the type of literature mainly sold would actually have the opposite effect to that of converting the unsophisticated purchaser. There was no propaganda or meetings in the Wards, and the consequence was that when the testing time came the old guard of convinced supporters were out-numbered. It is all very well to provide entertainments and popular speakers for the edification and enjoyment of our own people, but if elections have to be won the message must go forth to the world

outside. In the case under notice, even the beneficial effects of advertising were lost, because it was not necessary to advertise.

In many quarters there still remains some misconception as to the rights of individual members at Party meetings. We have seen several instances where "Trades Councils and Labour Parties" permit individual members to attend delegate meetings, and to speak and vote on the same footing as delegates elected by their branches. This is hopelessly wrong, and there is not a single feature to redeem it. Individual members have the right to elect their own delegates to the General Committee, and it is these delegates who would have the right to vote and speak. There is, certainly, no objection to individual members being given privilege of attendance as visitors, but to do as has been stated is to make the representative character of the General Committee a laughing stock, and to destroy that character altogether, while if the delegates possess common intelligence they are sure to object to fifty or one hundred affiliated members being given merely the same voice and vote as one individual. Further, if the Party really grows and isn't a barnacle altogether, what is to happen if all the individual members attend? We strongly recommend the Parties who have adopted this futile procedure to look ahead and fall into line with the correct rules at once.

*What you save in Cash
you lose in Efficiency
unless all the officers of
your Party get the*

Labour Organiser

We regret that we are unable, as we had hoped, to give our readers, this month, the pleasure of an article by Mr. Sidney Webb, the Chairman of the Labour Party. Mr. Webb is at present suffering from the effects of his strenuous labours in so many directions, and is resting, and, we hope, recuperating, among the hills of Wales.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such for instance as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.

ASSENTORS TO NOMINATIONS.

A correspondent enquires as to the number of assentors to a nomination paper required at Local Government Elections.

The following table may serve for future use:—

Parliamentary Elections—One proposer, one seconder, eight assentors.

County Council Elections—One proposer, one seconder, eight assentors.

Borough Council Election (Metropolitan)—One proposer, one seconder, no assentors.

Borough Council Elections (Country)—One proposer, one seconder, eight assentors.

Guardians Elections (London and Provinces)—One proposer, one seconder, no assentors.

Urban and Rural District Council Elections—One proposer, one seconder, no assentors.

Parish Councillors Elections—One proposer, one seconder, no assentors.

NAME OF PUBLISHER ON CANVASS CARD

E. H. had been appointed election agent to the candidate and had ordered canvass cards, on which his name and address had been printed as publisher. Circumstances have arisen which may prevent E.H. from acting as agent when the election takes place, and he enquires whether his name having been given as publisher some illegality will be committed by the use of the canvass cards as printed. In the first place, whatever action E.H. may have taken in his capacity of election agent (and the purchase of canvass cards is an act of the election), a change of election agent is distinctly provided for in the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883, and valid acts done by an election agent during his term are not vitiated by a change of agent until cancelled, of course, by the newcomer. Thus

the expense of the canvass cards referred to is an expense that will be returned in the accounts of the new agent, and such degree of responsibility as exists for publication is carried over to the new agent, and it is unnecessary, in our opinion, under the circumstances for a fresh agent immediately on his appointment to reprint his own name on any stock of printing that may be remaining over, and which he desires to use for the purpose of the election.

In the matter under notice, however, it would have been unnecessary to have printed the agent's name on the canvass cards. The C.I.P.A., Section 18, lays down that "Every bill, placard or poster having reference to an election shall bear upon the face thereof the name and address of the printer and publisher thereof." The canvass card is not either a bill, placard or poster, and its use is, of course, limited to those who are legally "agents" of the candidate. Unless used in some other manner than their common use, the stipulation in the Act referred to does not apply. Canvass cards are on an altogether different footing to poll cards, which latter, of course, are clearly "bills."

FORM OF NOMINATION.

W.H. writes: "I have been told that the Returning Officer will not recognise any nomination form except such as is issued under his own style and from his own office. Is he correct?"

Our friend would do well to draw the attention of the Returning Officer to the Ballot Act, 1872, Section 28, (which reads, "The schedules of this Act and note thereto, and directions therein, shall be construed and have effect as part of this Act"), and to the first Schedule, Rule 7, which reads as follows: "The Returning Officer shall supply a form of nomination paper to any registered elector requiring the same during such two hours as the Returning Officer may fix, between the hours of ten in the morning and two in the afternoon on each day intervening between the day on which notice of the election was given and the day of election, and during the time appointed for the election; but nothing in this Act shall render obligatory the use of a nomination paper supplied by the Returning Officer, so, however, that the paper be in the form prescribed by this Act."

A further reference can be given to the head note of the second schedule, which reads, "The forms contained in this schedule or forms as nearly resembling the same as circumstances will admit, shall be used in all cases to which they refer and are applicable, and when so used shall be sufficient in law." The refusal to accept the Labour Party form of nomination is an example of crass stupidity and bureaucratic blundering and may land the Returning Officer in a mess for which he would be sorry.

A POSTER IN SECTIONS.

W.H.J. enquires: — Would you please advise me regarding the following point: If a large poster, say 10ft. by 16ft., is used at an election made up of four or six parts, is it necessary to have the printers' and publishers' name on each part, or does it count as one sheet?

In the ordinary way a placard built up of several sheets would only require one printers' and publishers' imprint. It is possible, of course, to conceive a hoarding being taken and separate sheets so built up as to form what in effect would be more than one placard; in such cases the printers' and publishers' names must be displayed for each placard.

BACK COPIES OF THE LABOUR ORGANISER

We beg to announce that we still have surplus back copies of certain issues of the "Labour Organiser," which we are willing to make up in parcels of not less than 18 copies, at the price of 1½d. per copy. It must be distinctly understood that we are unable to assort these parcels to order, but each parcel will contain at least five separate issues. Parcels are supplied on the understanding that they are used solely for use within the Party.

Many enquiries reach us for special back copies of the "Labour Organiser." These are supplied at the usual price of 4½d. per copy. We are unable to supply any of the following numbers, which are completely sold out: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16 and 18. Of several of the other issues, only some half dozen copies are in stock.

FOR SALE

“DUGGIE”

The Editor's Famous 4 h.p. Douglas Motor Cycle Combination.

PRICE - £110

Cost, 1921, £170. Improvements added, £15

IN MEMORIAM-AD VALOREM!

MY MASTERS,

I am going to sell “Duggie”—the good “Duggie,” the “Duggie” of my joys, and your joys also—for have I not shared them with you?

I am not tired of “Duggie.” She has merely given place to “something bigger.” For four months “Duggie” has waited patiently in the stable for the honour of a run, and the glory of a breathless spin. Alas! that one does not always be off with the first love ere taking on the other! I cannot stand it longer; yet “Duggie” and I are agreed that we desire her future master (or her mistress) to be of the Labour breed, no other. Hence this advertisement.

“Duggie” needs no praise. I recite her virtues merely as a category of the facts. In selling terms they are:—Just completely overhauled, done 40 m.p.h. on trial run, 4 h.p. flat twin, mechanical lubrication, particularly sweet-running engine, easy clutch and gear change, three gears, foot controlled clutch, B & B carburettor, highest possible grade oversize tyres (Stepney), light blue sidecar, dash, and glass windscreen, hood and mat, capacious storage, acetylene lighting, two large head-lights, three generators, full kit of tools, Lucas horn, mirror, pump, carrier, tool boxes, etc. If a quick sale, spare tubes and sundries added.

WHITTINGTON,
NEAR WORCESTER.

THE EDITOR.

TO LABOUR AGENTS ONLY

A proposal would be considered from an established Labour Agent for substantial portion cash and remainder instalments. Preference to cash customer.

REVIEWS

* THE "LABOUR MAGAZINE."

One of the features of British journalism during the past 25 years has been the steadily decreasing hold on the public of the monthlies and quarterlies devoted to a review of political and current events. At a time when the grip of this class of journal on the British public seemed at its lowest ebb, the "Labour Magazine" has been launched, and at a jump has reversed the order of things so far as its own destiny and achievements are concerned. The new joint publication of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party jumps into a circulation, and an influence peculiarly by its own, and fills a place in current literature that was distinctly vacant. In the future it will do more; for its conduct, and its outlook (and, so far, its contents) are likely to achieve for it a great place in journalism, and a widening influence and hold on the British public. Its four issues have already placed it beyond cavil in its own house, and each has been an improvement on its predecessor.

The get-up of the "Labour Magazine" is reminiscent of one journal that in its prime wielded a powerful influence under the editorship of a great publicist now dead. It possesses the characteristics of readability and variety, and the illustrations have been well chosen and well placed. The catholicity of certain features is a tribute to the fact that the Labour public is, after all, a British public that has cultivated a taste for certain features dished in a certain way. In other words the contents have a first-sight appeal to the average reader. As to the contents themselves, the whole field of Labour political interest has hitherto come under review, yet in such a way that each page has its freshness. To attempt to particularise the articles would be futile. We hope and we believe the high standard of interest and effectiveness will be maintained in future issues, and should this prove so, then a powerful weapon has been added to the Labour armoury.

† THE LABOUR SPEAKER'S HANDBOOK.

I have never yet reviewed a dictionary or a concordance, and I hope I never shall be expected to. I am sure I should be quite bare of words, though there may be plenty to prompt me in

the book. It is just this same surfeit of good things that makes the Labour Speaker's Handbook a difficult thing to review. The handbook is, in fact, a wonder book, and a mine of information—a gold mine at that. To give an indication of its contents is mainly as difficult as a similar job with a dictionary. There are actually no less than fourteen pages of a closely printed index, an instance of the amazing wealth of knowledge that there is in the handbook and an example, too, of the admirable way it has been recorded and indexed and cross indexed for the ready reference of the speaker and Labour worker in search of information with which to strengthen his case.

In the old days "Facts for Socialists" provided an almost invincible battery of facts and figures. To-day, however, Labour policy has widened beyond the doctrinaire tenets of the foundation of its belief, and the handbook reflects the widening of its interest together with, in most cases, the strengthening of its case by recent history. Altogether this new publication should prove a powerful friend in need, and the classification of its contents a valuable addition to its usefulness.

* The "Labour Magazine," 6d. monthly. T.U.C. and Labour Party Joint Publicity Department.

† The Labour Speaker's Handbook. Price 1/-. The Labour Party (Publication Department).

SUGGESTIONS TO CANVASSERS

The following "Suggestions to Canvassers," printed by the Woolwich Labour Party are valuable and to the point. They are printed apart from the canvass cards and handed to the canvassers on taking out cards.

SUGGESTIONS TO CANVASSERS.

- 1.—Try to ascertain whether the voter is with us in this particular Election.
- 2.—Try to ascertain his general politics—whether Labour or Tory.
- 3.—If with us, get him to promise to go to the poll, and ascertain the time most convenient for him. Note this on card. Leave a card with the names of the candidates.
- 4.—Always have literature with you. It is a good means of introduction. Read the literature yourself, and be

THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS LTD.

is the WORKERS' PRESS. It is owned and controlled by Labour for Labour. The profits go to propaganda for the emancipation of Labour.

The ideal of the National Labour Press, Ltd., is—Each for All and All for Each.

No matter what you require in the way of Printing—we are at your service.

The National Labour Press, Ltd., awaits your commands.

Works:

MANCHESTER: 30 Blackfriars Street
LEICESTER - - 17 Albion Street

prepared to answer reasonable questions. Remember, however, that opponents often try to waste canvassers' time.

5.—If the voter is with us, and at all enthusiastic, persuade him to join the Association and to work either as canvasser, distributor or writer. Make a note of all likely members, and give their names and addresses to the Ward Secretary.

6.—Pay special attention to women voters and the wives of male voters. Report at once to Ward Secretary any point on which women appear to be against us. Use discretion to discover if any undue pressure is being brought to bear on women to vote against us.

7.—In case of removal, *do your utmost* to trace the voter. *Elections are often won and lost by tracing removals.*

8.—Get any information likely to be useful for Registration.

9.—Use no mark, but a cross, in the columns "For," "Against," "Favourable," etc.

10.—Let all notes on the back of card be legible, brief and to the point.

11.—Return your cards to Ward Secretary as soon as possible, so that a second canvass may be made of voters likely to be won over.

12.—If the voter should be seen by a special person, state by whom.

13.—Report at once to Ward Secretary any statement of the other side which appears to be making an impression on voters, so that if necessary, special leaflets can be prepared.

WARNING.

You must not make any payment or promise of payment or incur any pecuniary liability.

You must not threaten a worker, nor give him food, drink, or any other consideration.

You must not persuade anyone to personate a voter or to vote twice in this Election, or induce any disqualified person to vote.

A breach of these instructions will render you liable to severe penalties both of fine and imprisonment.

The Wolverhampton Labour Party who at one time possessed a monthly paper are now taking steps to establish a new weekly, and negotiations have been taking place with the group of Midland newspapers associated with the "Town Crier" of Birmingham.

THE VILLAGE MEETING

By H. N. ST. DUNSTAN WHITE
(Agent, Warwick and Leamington Division).

County divisions, undoubtedly, have many difficulties, and I imagine that by no means the least of the difficulties is the question of successfully holding meetings in the villages. That, I presume, is why I discovered, when assisting at a recent bye-election in an area of 800 voters, that the Labour Party was unheard of, and in consequence, something to be despised, even abhorred. I often imagined that I was expected to herald my approach with the cries of Unclean! Unclean!!

That experience was my lesson. It aroused my determination, viz., that the villagers in my own Division should have the opportunity of learning that the Labour Party was the Party with a Policy, and only upon that policy could the chaos of to-day be organised, and bring in its train ideals to secure justice for humanity.

My determination presented two difficulties.

First, Who should be the missioner? I knew that the candidate could not possibly—owing to the arduous and exacting duties which are his daily round and common task—spare the time for a campaign. Mr. Egerton P. Wake was thereupon approached, and ultimately Mr. J. W. Kneeshaw (National Propagandist) was allocated for six days. What hope!

Six days in a constituency with an area of 300 square miles—86 Parishes and 22 Polling districts. It would have been all right had it been possible to use the radiophone, but that was not financially possible, even if practicable. The only other course was to run the risk of exclusion from the Agents' Association. Fortunately for me, there is no limit on production in our rules! I presumed, therefore, the worst that could happen would be stigmatization as a "Sweater." The risk was taken, and 17 meetings were arranged—two each evening, and five afternoon meetings.

My plan of campaign necessitated two speakers. Knowing the capabilities of Councillor Sam Hague, and realising he was in need of a holiday—yes, Mr. Editor, both speakers were

much better in health at the end of the week—I approached my Association for permission to allow his attendance for a week in an advisory capacity. On one occasion, owing to the second speaker being detained with questions—he advised his audience for over an hour, retaining their fixed attention. What a thirst—!

Arrangements were made for the first meeting to commence at 7.30, both speakers being present—the first speaker being allowed 30 minutes, after which he was conveyed to the second meeting place—which was anything from three to six miles away, the conveyance returning for the second speaker, who was timed to arrive 40 minutes later. At three meetings we had three speakers, and followed the same procedure.

When within five miles of a local party, one of the members was sent out to act as chairman. Advantage was taken to sell "The Labour Searchlight," which, if the villagers showed diffidence, was preceded with a copy, gratis, of "The Labour Party's Fight for the Agricultural Wages Board." Where that bait did not succeed, the Agent challenged the sporting instinct, which resulted in a copy being pocketed, if not paid for.

How to get the audience was the second difficulty.

Expenditure on large posters does not justify itself unless you have a "Big Gunner," whose name is a household word, and even then you run the risk of upsetting some of the electors upon whose property you may surreptitiously show your goods.

Handbills, too, have been found, by experience, unjustifiable. They present much difficulty in distribution, and are too common-place. The Labour Party, to succeed, must be distinctive.

The meetings, generally, were summoned by post (taking advantage of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate). The notice was duplicated, recognised for its brevity—as I believe in allowing for curiosity which is our natural disposition—and the note-paper headed with a photo of the candidate—perhaps the photo fetched them! With each invitation was enclosed Labour Party Leaflet (1921 Series) No. 12, which specially appeals to the women.

I hope the above may be helpful to my brother agents and others, but one thing is absolutely necessary—I am

convinced that "Enthusiasm" is infectious, therefore possess "enthusiasm" for the cause you have in hand.

WHERE TO GET PHOTO BUTTONS, ENAMEL BADGES, ETC.

The advertisement of the Merchant Portrait Co., which appears on another page, should prove of considerable interest and value to many of our readers. Several enquiries have reached us as to a suitable source of supply for these things, and we have no hesitation in recommending the firm above named.

We have in our possession a number of samples of celluloid badges executed by the Merchant Portrait Co., many of them for well-known Labour organisations, and the work has been remarkably well done and tastefully executed. There are a number of uses to which these badges may be put, apart from their use in Labour bodies, as distinctions of a particular organisation. When used in the latter connection they are frequently, of course, valuable aids to organisation and no mean assistance in raising funds. We certainly think that many Divisional Parties would find their own distinctive button a benefit both politically and financially. The other uses, however, to which we refer are in connection with fetes, flag-days, May-day demonstrations, special outdoor campaigns, and as stewards' badges, club badges, etc. There are several sizes of badges, and they may be obtained for the button-hole, or as brooches or pins.

The above firm also specialise in photo buttons which can be either real photos or reproductions from half-tone blocks mounted into buttons. If due regard is paid to avoiding infringement of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts, many ways can be found of popularising the features of the party's leading figure by means of these buttons.

We should add that the price is determined by quantity and design, and the fullest aid is given to enquirers. The Merchant Portrait Co. offer to make a sample photo badge for any of our organisations placing an enquiry with a view to order. This and other enquiries are answered by return of post.

A DISTINCTIVE
POSTER THAT
STRIKES THE EYE

PRINTED IN ORANGE
INK ON GOOD QUALITY
PAPER

DOUBLE ROYAL
40 in. x 25 in.

ROCHDALE
MORNING
11-0 a.m.

TRADES AND LABOUR
DEMONSTRATION
SUNDAY,
JULY 9TH

TOWN
HALL SQUARE.
WALTER HALLS, M.P.
(HEYWOOD)
STANLEY BURGESS
PROSPECTIVE LABOUR
CANDIDATE
FOR ROCHDALE

AT
10 a.m.
PROCESSION

BAND AND BANNERS
Assemble on Spare Ground near the Railway Station.
All Trade Unionists Invited.

CHAIR:
T. CROMPTON, J.P.
(PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

PIONEERS
LARGE HALL.
R. J. DAVIES, M.P.
(WEST HUGHTON)
STANLEY BURGESS
PROSPECTIVE LABOUR
CANDIDATE
FOR ROCHDALE

CHAIR:
F. A. TURNER
(PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL)

COUNCIL.
EVENING
7-0 p.m.

A FIRST-CLASS
BASE FOR HAND-
WRITING OR FOR
THE PRINTER

SAMPLE BILL
POST FREE 6d.

11/6 PER 100
CARRIAGE PAID

E. J. ALFORD, 124 DRAKE ST., ROCHDALE

OUR WOMAN'S PAGE

"THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL."

In this and other pages of the "Organiser," many suggestions have been given on "How best to influence the woman voter." This has been done with the object not only of helping to influence but to actually obtain the membership and co-operation of women within the Party, because we realise the importance and value of a good membership of women, and active, helpful Women's Sections.

This being so, one regrets the misunderstanding that appears to exist here and there as to the financial position between the local Labour Parties and their Women's Sections. This misunderstanding arises through lack of knowledge on the part sometimes of the women, and sometimes of the local parties, or their officials.

It is worth while for the benefit of secretaries that the position should be made clear. A pamphlet has been issued by the Labour Party, written by Dr. Marion Phillips, which should be read by all secretaries—men and women. It is entitled "Organisation of Women Within the Party," price 2d., 1/6 per doz. In this pamphlet (under the heading "Finance") the position is clearly stated, viz., that all subscriptions, i.e., membership subscriptions are the property of the Local Labour Party, but Women's Sections must have some money, and a place to meet in. This should be provided by the Local Labour Party, so that, after handing over the annual membership subscriptions the Women's Section must be allowed to raise money for its own use, and be able to retain money thus raised, for purposes of propaganda among women, education, delegations to councils and conferences.

In many instances Women's Sections have handed over their "balance in hand" to a Local Labour Party, to free the Party from debt, to find no willingness within the Party when the opportunity came to help the women with a delegation which would have been an education to the section.

The women are generally willing to help raise funds for the Party, but as a section they have a definite

work to do, and must be encouraged rather than discouraged in the work of educating and developing the mind, as well as catering for socials, whist drives, and other party functions.

One is glad to know that these misunderstandings are few, and can easily be remedied by spreading information, as to the real work of a Woman's Section. The pamphlet mentioned above should be widely circulated amongst all the members of your party so that the section and the party will thoroughly understand their respective duties.

Women generally are really anxious and willing to help their parties. All that is required is an agreement as to provision of meeting place, together with a joint committee of men and women to discuss raising of finance for general party funds, apart from the Women's Section's own money. Where this joint agreement has been made there is no trouble. We have so much work to do there is no time for misunderstandings. Get wisdom and in your getting, get understanding.

THE MANCHESTER (BOROUGH) LABOUR PARTY

The annual report and balance sheet of the Manchester (Borough) Labour Party discloses two or three interesting matters. An example is set to other divided Boroughs in that a concise report is given from each Divisional Labour Party in the ten organised Divisions. The whole of these make extremely interesting reading, and the insertion of a separate report is a recognition of the Divisional Parties' importance and the encouragement necessary to them in their work. It is, however, amusing to note the claim of one Party whose report states that "On the whole I don't think any one would deny to us the claim of being amongst the most energetic, enthusiastic, cantankerous, and useful councils there are in the country." The report goes hopefully on to state that "Our finances are very low, but they have been so many times before, and our members have never failed us. We are, therefore, hopeful, and look forward to our outstanding debts being paid off in the near future." We know something, perhaps, of the

troubles hinted at and of the multitude of sins that that "cantankerous" covers. We should imagine, however, that the broad spirit in which the secretary writes is the right spirit, and that tolerance and friendship of ill-named "extremists" pays best in the long run. We detest the Pharisaic attitude which places all who are called "extremists" outside the pale and refuses to recognise the good that they do and are capable of.

Considering the resources that are diverted to the Manchester Trades Council, the income of the Borough Party is highly creditable. There is a total income from fees, donations, etc., of £743 8s. 9d. The Executive, however, lay great stress in their report upon the necessity of a very much larger income if the Divisions are to be properly developed, and we are glad to note that this point is receiving earnest attention, and that the Central Party does not propose to rest on its oars now that it has itself achieved a creditable income. It should be added that the sum above named does not include literature sales or monies raised for the Municipal Elections, which totalled £25 13s. 2d. and £72 9s. 11d. respectively.

The Manchester Borough Labour Party is approaching an affiliated membership of 45,000, and the Executive point out that with an income of 2/6 per member, a sum of £5,625 would be realised. "With this, we could devote £1,000 to the work of the Borough Party, make grants of £200 to each of the nine Divisional Parties, fight twenty-five Municipal Wards at an average cost of £50, and carry forward the sum of £1,575 to a Parliamentary Election Fund, which would enable us to contest eight seats at a cost of £800 each, assuming a Parliamentary Election every four years." The present affiliation fee is 6d. per member, but like the Manchester Council, we, too, believe that a consistent educational movement should be sustained to educate the Labour movement to provide adequate funds for political purposes; after all, the sum of 2/6 per member is intrinsically a petty sum for each one to contribute.

The secretary of the Manchester Borough Labour Party is Ald. W. T. Jackson, J.P., 3 Clarence Street, Albert Square, Manchester.

THE TREATMENT OF REMOVALS

It is an accepted truism that many elections are won by good work in the removals department. There are few constituencies indeed where the removals at an election do not invariably form a substantial proportion of the electorate, and in some types of constituencies the number of removals reach an astounding figure.

It is to be remembered, too, that even with an election fought on a new register the addresses given therein are several months old: hundreds, even thousands of changes have been possible in the interim. Thus in the register that will be published on the 15th October, the overseers' canvass probably began on the 1st May, and actually before the end of the qualifying period many removals would have taken place.

It is of first-rate importance that election canvassers should be instructed to pay particular attention to removals both in and out of their district. Considerable time and labour will be saved if this is done. If merely the report is received at the Central Office that an elector has "gone," a special visit is entailed to the old address, involving time lost both in the journey and in the enquiries on the spot. The canvasser who has canvassed the street has obviously had far better opportunities to make enquiry than the newcomer sent from the Central Office, and if he has done this work, a valuable saving of time is effected, and what is more, the elector is reached earlier than otherwise would be.

It is not sufficient that canvassers should be trained merely to report concerning persons who have removed and whose cards have been given them to canvass. It is important that they should find out where the fresh householder has come from, and whether he has a vote and what are his inclinations. So too, other persons, lodgers for instance, are discovered who are on the register for their previous address.

There is a distinct tendency on the part of some canvassers to desire to present a satisfactory report for their own street, and to fail to realise the importance of securing promises from the persons above named, who may have votes in other parts of a con-

Removal Within Ward

Name
 Present Address
 Address on Register

Reg. No.

For	Against	Favourable	Doubtful	Dend

Mark thus **X**. Do not mark 'For' or 'Against' unless this information is certain.

Will the Voter display a Window Card?

REMARKS.

Canvasser's Signature
 Date of Canvass

Printed and Published by the Pioneer Press, Ltd. (T.U. Fed. and 48 hours), 5, New Road, Woolwich.

Removal to another Ward

Polling District No.
 Name
 Address on Register

Reg. No.

Removed to
 Address on Register

Polling Station
 SEND THIS CARD TO CENTRAL OFFICE
 Date sent

To be filled in by canvass in Ward where Voter now lives.

For	Against	Favourable	Moved Again	Dead

Mark thus **X**. Do not mark 'For' or 'Against' unless this information is certain.

Will the Voter {
 Display Window Card?

The Canvasser should draw the special attention of Voter to the Polling Station at which he will record his Vote.

Canvasser's Signature
 Return this card to Central Office as soon as voter is canvassed.

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Removal Outside Borough

Ward
 Name
 Address on Register

Reg. No.

Removed to
 Ward Secretary enter here known information.

For	Against	Favourable	Doubtful

SEND THIS CARD TO CENTRAL OFFICE
 Date sent

For Central Office use only.

Sent to for Canvass

Date By
 Reply Received—Date

For	Against	Favourable	Doubtful

Will come to Vote : Yes : No.

REMARKS.

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stituency. Even the organisers of an election, too, are sometimes at fault in the same direction, inasmuch that they do not realise the importance of removals in and out of their constituency. Quite frequently we have known no trouble at all taken when it is known that a person has removed out of the boundaries and no interest at all taken in electors from other constituencies who have removed into the area. The development of the Party during the past few years has, however, given us a net-work of local organisations throughout the whole country and it is also now certain that at least two out of three constituencies will be fought by Labour candidates at the General Election. With this new condition of affairs it is obvious that a tremendous deal can be done with removals as between constituencies, and particularly so in inter-locked industrial areas and divided Boroughs. In many of these places a central department should be set up during an election for the purpose of dealing with the interchange of removals, and in some of the more compact areas a staff of workers tracing removals would be an excellent supplement to the work of the canvassers in the field.

On another page we reproduce three removal cards that are in use in Woolwich, these are self-explanatory, and together they comprise a complete system for dealing with the work. They are, of course, printed in distinctive colours for ready reference.

AMENDMENT TO THE R.P. ACT

FURTHER LEGISLATION CONTEMPLATED.

We understand from a thoroughly reliable source that an amendment of the Representation of the People Act is under contemplation, and is likely to be embodied in an agreed Bill by which Section No. 34 of the Act will be strengthened. The section referred to reads as follows:—

(1) A person other than the election agent of a candidate shall not incur any expenses on account of holding public meetings or issuing advertisements, circulars or publica-

tions for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of any candidate at a Parliamentary election, unless he is authorised in writing to do so by such election agent.

(2) If any person acts in contravention of this section, he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice other than personation within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, and the expression "corrupt practice" shall be construed accordingly.

In the amendment suggested, it is proposed to add words which will make the clause applicable not only to individuals but to Companies and Corporations or other Associations, and an anomaly will be removed which recent experience in the courts has shown to exist.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements under this heading are inserted at the special rate of twenty-four words for 2s., and 6d. for each additional six words, or less. Cash must accompany order. Three insertions are charged at the rate of two-and-a-half. Displayed advertisements, prepaid, are charged 4s. per inch, with special discount for a series.

PORTABLE Open-air Speakers' Platforms supplied.—For particulars apply to H. W. Bingley, 106, Dunlace Road, Clapton Park, E.5.

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DODD, CAISTER-ON-SEA.

APARTMENTS. Mrs. Bairstow,
Adswood House, 72 Circular Road,
Douglass (five minutes from prom.).

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The PIONEER PRESS Ltd.

**3 NEW ROAD,
WOOLWICH,
S.E. 18**



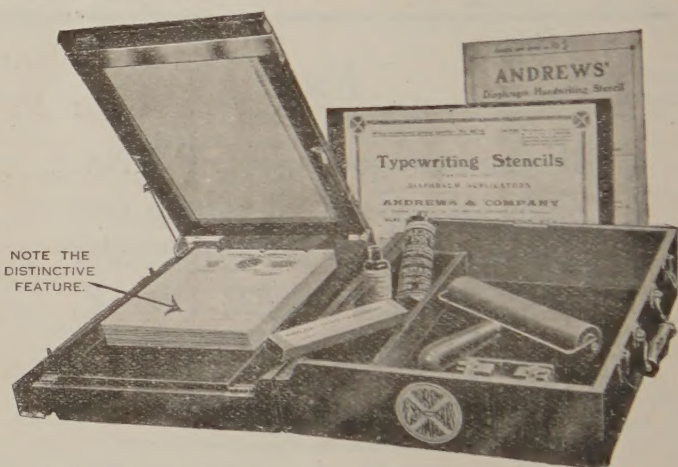
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Reproduce, in facsimile handwriting or typewriting, your notices at a very reasonable cost. It has all the efficiency of more expensive duplicators. Copies are uniform throughout and the number is unlimited. Willingly sent CARRIAGE AND PACKING FREE ON APPROVAL.

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MODEL No. 1—£5 10s., complete with outfit. This has the advantages of No. 2 Model, but does not accommodate a pile of paper on its bed.

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GESTETNER'S ROTARY DUPLICATOR, or any other make of Duplicator, send for Price List of our Accessories which will save you money. Only the very best and most reliable materials supplied

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ANDREWS & COMPANY

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and at Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol & Cardiff

TELEPHONE: